

A truly obscene television scene is about to be broadcast and you have the power to prevent it. Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air a documentary critical of a presidential candidate days before the election is an outrageous attack on the traditional American value of free speech.

The airwaves are our common public resource that companies use in exchange for serving the public interest. We depend on these companies to act impartially when it comes to or elections. It is very clear that a broadcaster is violating the public interest when it decides to place its own interests above its responsibility to present impartial coverage of our electoral candidates. This is a cornerstone of our ability to be a democracy.

This underscores a more pervasive problem. When we allow our broadcasting outlets to be concentrated in the hands of a few, we are abdicating our responsibility to protect our democracy. Democracy thrives when lots of people are allowed to argue their ideas in the marketplace of ideas. It withers on the vine when this marketplace is restricted to only a few. This abuse of power by Sinclair demonstrates why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. We need to take the license renewal process seriously so that we can protect our democracy by protecting our marketplace of ideas. Thank you.